DEFENDANTS' SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF RE PLEA AGREEMENTS

Case No. C 02-5570-WHA

A plea agreement contains statements by the defendant entering into it. Those statements, like any other made by a party, are admissible at trial against that party as an admission. Fed. R. Evid. 801(d).

A party's admissions, however, are still hearsay as to *other* parties, unless they qualify under another exception. A statement against interest is admissible against others (Rule 804(b)(3)), but only if the declarant, in this case the pleading party, is unavailable. Fed. R. Evid. 804(b).)

A declarant is unavailable where he is (1) exempted by ruling of the court on the ground of privilege; (2) persists in refusing to testify concerning the subject matter of the statement despite an order of the court to do so; (3) testifies to a lack of memory of the subject matter of the statement; (4) is unable to be present or to testify; or (5) is absent from the hearing and the

of privilege; (2) persists in refusing to testify concerning the subject matter of the statement despite an order of the court to do so; (3) testifies to a lack of memory of the subject matter of the statement; (4) is unable to be present or to testify; or (5) is absent from the hearing and the proponent of the statement has been unable to procure the declarant's attendance. Fed. R. Evid. 804(a). A party proffering hearsay evidence pursuant to the statement against interest exception bears the burden of establishing that the declarant is unavailable. See United States v. Curbello, 940 F.2d 1503, 1506-07 (11th Cir. 1991); Campbell v. Coleman Co., 786 F.2d 892, 895-96 (8th Cir. 1986).

In this case, defendant's plea agreement will be admissible against any other defendant as a statement against interest because, as we are presently aware, all of the defendants will be available to testify.

Dated: April 6, 2004

BISHOP, BARRY, HOWE, HANEY & RYDER

By: /s/
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